

FINANCIAL REPORT

BRIMFIELD
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OF THE

Town of Brimfield,

WITH THE

R E P O R T

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE

Year Ending March 16, 1878.



SPRINGFIELD MASS.:

CLARK W. BRYAN & COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1878.



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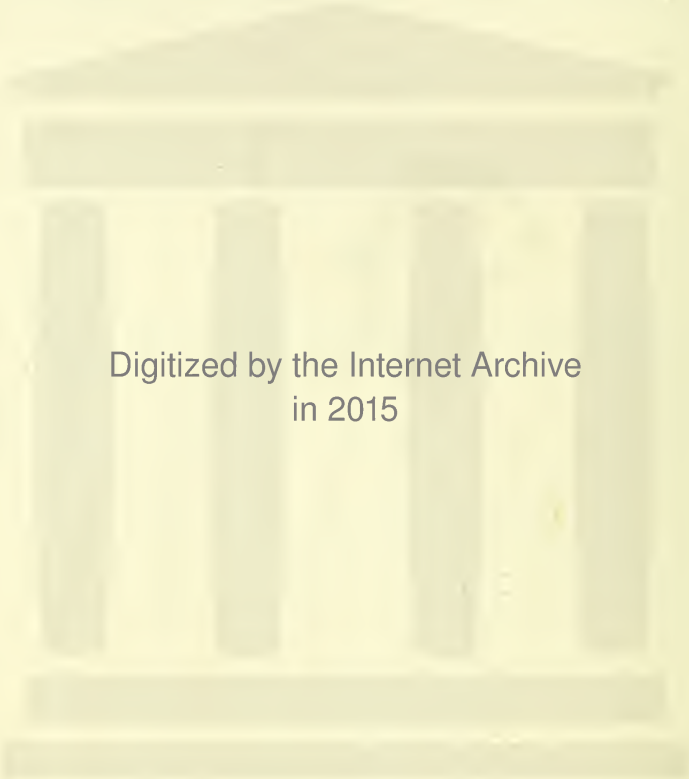
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AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Brimfield,
for the year ending March 16, 1878.

FOR REPAIR OF HIGHWAYS.

1877.

April	2, Paid	Alfred Lumbard,	\$15 45	
April	2,	Austin Woodard,	7 36	
April	2,	Edward B. Brown,	11 17	
May	7,	Alfred Lumbard,	4 60	
May	7,	The Selectmen,	6 61	
June	4,	Thomas J. Morgan,	1 15	
Oct.	1,	James B. Brown,	6 44	
Nov.	3,	Otto Shaffer,	7 29	
Nov.	3,	Milo S. Booth,	2 50	
Nov.	3,	W. J. Brown,	16 43	
Dec.	3,	Jonathan Griffin,	1 25	
Dec.	3,	George H. Upham,	1 05	
				\$81 30

May	7, Paid	A. C. Bennett,	\$32 25	
June	4,	A. C. Bennett,	39 00	
July	2,	A. C. Bennett,	12 00	
Sept.	3,	A. C. Bennett,	27 15	
Nov.	3,	A. C. Bennett,	5 25	
				115 65

May	7, Paid	Moses H. Baker,	\$53 60	
June	4,	Moses H. Baker,	26 25	

1878.

Jan.	7,	Moses H. Baker,	3 60	
				83 45

June	4,	Paid John Farrell,	\$22 70	
July	2,	John Farrell,	34 65	
Dec.	3,	John Farrell,	19 50	
				76 85
June	4,	Paid John S. Needham,	\$58 50	
Oct.	1,	John S. Needham,	6 40	
1878.				
Jan.	7,	John S. Needham,	3 00	
				67 90
July	2,	Paid Josiah Stebbins,	\$56 50	
Sept.	3,	Josiah Stebbins,	13 00	
Nov.	3,	Josiah Stebbins,	8 40	
				77 90
June	4,	Paid Wilbur G. Parker,	\$35 70	
July	2,	Wilbur G. Parker,	56 00	
Nov.	3,	Wilbur G. Parker,	35 02	
Dec.	3,	Wilbur G. Parker,	34 45	
Nov.	4,	Wilbur G. Parker,	5 85	
				167 02
June	4,	Paid Benjamin B. Fenton,	\$35 05	
July	2,	Benjamin B. Fenton,	24 75	
Dec.	3,	Benjamin B. Fenton,	16 60	
				76 40
June	4,	Paid Arthur B. Brown,	\$45 00	
July	2,	Arthur B. Brown,	3 30	
Nov.	3,	Arthur B. Brown,	28 05	
1878.				
March	4,	Arthur B. Brown,	2 70	
				79 05
June	4,	Paid John C. Spring,	\$55 40	
July	2,	John C. Spring,	63 56	
Sept.	3,	John C. Spring,	22 47	
Nov.	3,	John C. Spring,	43 06	
Dec.	3,	John C. Spring,	9 88	
				194 37

June	4,	Paid Benjamin G. Webster,	\$43 55	
July	2,	Benjamin G. Webster,	51 73	
Nov.	3,	Benjamin G. Webster,	39 55	
				134 83
Sept.	3,	Paid Dwight P. Allen,	\$56 23	56 23
Oct.	1,	Dauphin Brown,	53 25	
1878.				
Jan.	7,	Dauphin Brown,	2 62	
				55 87
Total,				\$1,266 82

FOR SUPPORT OF BRIDGES.

1877.

May	7,	Paid E. B. & H. A. Webber for plank,	\$85 92	
June	4,	John S. Needham,	14 68	
June	4,	John C. Spring,	10 49	
Sept.	3,	Benjamin B. Fenton,	11 25	
Dec.	3,	Benjamin B. Fenton,	8 96	
Dec.	3,	John Farrell,	6 63	
Total,				\$137 93

FOR SNOW PATHS.

1877.

April	2,	Paid John Haley,	\$4 25	
April	2,	John S. Needham,	6 60	
April	2,	Milo S. Booth,	8 26	
1878.				
Feb.	6,	Joseph P. Brown,	5 25	
March	4,	Moses H. Baker,	10 57	
March	4,	Josiah Stebbins,	10 95	
March	4,	Arthur B. Brown,	2 46	

Total, \$48 34

FOR OFFICERS' SALARIES.

1877.

SELECTMEN.

April	2,	Paid Newton S. Hubbard for 1876,	\$13 50	\$13 50
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ASSESSORS.

Dec.	3,	Paid Samuel W. Brown,	\$31 00	
Dec.	3,	Oscar F. Brown,	25 00	
March	4,	George M. Hitchcock,	21 00	
				77 00

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

April	2,	Paid Rev. W. K. Pierce for 1876,	\$30 00	
April	2,	Joseph L. Woods for 1876,	50 00	
March	16,	E. W. Norwood for 1877,	4 50	
				84 50

SEXTON.

May	7,	Paid George Bacon.	\$29 25	
Oct.	1,	F. E. Cook,	29 00	
1878.				
Jan.	7,	F. E. Cook,	24 60	
				82 85

AUDITORS.

Dec.	3,	Paid Orus E. Parker,	\$6 00	
Dec.	3,	Oscar F. Brown,	6 00	
				12 00

CONSTABLE.

May	7,	Paid Francis E. Cook,	\$8 00	
1878.				
Jan.	7,	Francis E. Cook,	4 00	
March	4,	Francis E. Cook, Truant Officer,	2 00	
March	4,	Francis E. Cook, service Select-		
		men's order on owners of dogs,	10 00	
				24 00

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

1877.				
June	4,	Paid Sumner Parker for 1876,	\$29 50	
1878.				
March	4,	Francis E. Cook for 1877,	27 35	
1878.				\$56 85
Jan.	7,	Paid George H. Upham, sealer of		
		weights and care of Select-		
		men's room,	12 00	12 00

March 16, Paid Cheney Newton, Collector for 1876,	50 00	50 00
		\$412 70

UNUSUAL EXPENSES.

1877.	TOWN HISTORY.		
April 2, Paid Rev. C. M. Hyde,		\$100 00	
May 7, J. H. Goodhue,		44 50	
March 12, Clark W. Bryan & Co.,		200 00	
1878.			
Jan. 7, Milton Bradley & Co.,		50 00	
			\$394 50

1877.	RAILING FOR HIGHWAYS.		
	Paid B. G. Webster,	\$40 00	
July 2, W. G. Parker,		3 00	
July 2, Josiah Stebbins,		6 50	
	Benj. B. Fenton,	18 40	
	John Farrell,	4 95	
			72 85

	FOR DAMAGE ON HIGHWAY.		
April 2, Paid Loring C. Howlett,		\$5 00	
July 2, Joseph L. Woods,		2 00	
July 2, Thomas McMahan,		2 00	
Sept. 3, Lucy A. Collis,		41 00	
Oct. 1, F. L. Wicker,		22 50	
			72 50

	FOR MILL-DAM ROAD.		
May 7, Paid Selectmen,		\$76 84	
Dec. 3, Cheney Newton,		8 00	
Dec. 3, John C. Spring,		20 17	
May 7, F. E. Cook,		4 20	
1878.			
March 4, Morris & Copeland,		20 00	
			129 21

1877.	CEMETERY.		
July 2, Paid Heirs of S. A. Hitchcock for land,		\$50 00	
Dec. 3, D. Shaw & Son, for posts,		14 70	
			64 70

TOWN LIBRARY.

Paid Gen. Fitz Henry Warren,	\$300 00	
Lee & Shepard,	281 71	
Clark W. Bryan & Co.,	57 00	
		638 71
Paid for alterations of Almshouse,	\$661 35	661 35
J. T. Brown,	3 63	3 63
State Aid,	96 00	96 00
Total,		\$2,133 45

FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid for wages and board of teachers, and for fuel and care of school-houses, for the year ending March 16, 1878:

NAMES OF TEACHERS.	No. of School.	Wages, Summer Term.	Wages, Fall Term.	Wages, Winter Term.	Fuel and Care of Houses.	Total.
Mary F. Woods,	1	\$69 75	\$00 00	\$00 00		
Fannie P. Walker,	1	00 00	69 75	99 00	\$21 22	\$259 72
Julia Blashfield,	2	69 75	68 20	99 00	27 75	264 70
Rebecca M. Lincoln,	3	62 00	63 00	00 00		
Sena J. Webber,	3	00 00	00 00	87 00	8 25	221 25
Harriet N. Marsh,	4	56 00	00 00	00 00		
Minnie S. Burleigh,	4	00 00	70 00	90 00	18 31	234 31
Sarah Hubbard,	5	32 66	00 00	84 00	9 50	126 16
Minnie S. Burleigh,	6	63 00	00 00	60 00		
Sarah E. Kenney,	6	00 00	63 00	96 00	7 50	229 50
Ruth R. Cortis,	7	00 00	63 00	00 00		63 00
Lizzie J. Traverse,	8	45 00	54 00	84 00	18 00	201 00
	9	No	school.			
Ruth R. Cortis,	10	69 75	00 00	92 66		
Sena J. Webber,	10	00 00	58 50	00 00	21 00	241 91
		\$468 91	\$509 45	\$731 66		\$1,841 55

FOR OTHER EXPENSES FOR SCHOOLS.

Paid Parmenter & Walker, for crayons,	\$7 45	
Town of Wales, for schooling,	6 00	
J. L. Woods, for supplies,	1 62	
J. L. Woods, books furnished pupils,	12 86—	\$27 93
Total amount paid,		\$1,869 48

From this deduct the amount due for schooling		
children from Monson,	\$11 92	
For schooling children from Palmer,	18 80—	30 72
Cost for resident pupils,		\$1,838 76
Appropriations for schools,	\$1,800 00	
Town proportion of school fund,	224 51—	\$2,024 51
Deduct cost of schools,		1,838 76
Balance unexpended,		\$185 75

REPAIR OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

1877.

April 6,	Paid Joseph L. Woods,	\$2 90
May 7,	Albert S. Prouty,	3 00
Oct. 1,	Wm. C. Blashfield, repairs	
	No. 8,	19 75
Nov. 3,	A. L. Converse, repairs No. 2,	58 69
Nov. 3,	Jonathan P. Webber,	21 65

1878.

Feb. 6,	Joseph L. Woods,	3 85
March 4,	Albert W. Pierson,	9 85
March 4,	James Harvey,	1 36
March 4,	J. T. Brown,	16 90
March 4,	John Curly,	1 30
March 12,	George H. Upham,	9 25
March 12,	Joseph L. Woods,	1 99
		\$150 49

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

April 2,	Paid Clark W. Bryan & Co., print-	
	ing town reports,	\$39 40
April 2,	Clark W. Bryan & Co., books	
	for Treasurer,	3 25
April 2,	George H. Upham, work on	
	drain,	2 00
May 7,	F. E. Cook, serving warrants,	3 50
May 7,	S. S. Livermore, ringing bell,	43 33
May 7,	George Bacon,	4 45

June 4,	John S. Needham,	4 50
August 6,	Melvin & Goodhue, printing,	5 00
Nov. 3,	Otto Shaffer,	1 00
Nov. 3,	Wm. J. Brown,	2 50
Nov. 3,	J. C. Spring,	4 75
Dec. 3,	George H. Upham, guide-boards, etc.,	11 93
1878.		
March 4,	First Parish, for use of hall,	50 00
March 4,	J. T. Brown, rent, etc.,	28 56
March 12,	G. H. Upham, guide-board, etc.,	2 75
March 4,	Town of Wales, taxes,	3 78
March 4,	A. L. Converse, postage, etc.,	5 00

 215 70

FOR SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

1877.

April 2,	Paid P. F. Spaulding, for C. M. Fosket, 1875,	\$4 00
April 2,	P. F. Spaulding, for Lyman Needham, 1875,	1 03
April 2,	George Bacon, coffin for Miss Tourtellot,	20 00
May 7,	B. G. Webster, salary to April 1, 1877,	315 33
June 4,	Sumner Parker, for Peter O'Day,	10 00
June 4,	Sumner Parker, for Horace Nichols,	10 00
June 4,	Sumner Parker, for postage, etc.,	1 50
-	Cash advanced Overseers of Poor,	1,044 60

 \$1,406 46

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FOREGOING.

			PAYMENTS.
For repair of highway,	\$1,200 00		\$1,266 82
Support of bridges,	200 00		137 93
Snow paths,	200 00		48 34
Support of schools, town,	\$1,800 00		
Proportion of school fund,	224 51	2,024 51	1,869 48
Repair of school-houses,		200 00	150 49
Support of paupers,		1,000 00	1,406 46
Officers' salaries,		400 00	412 70
Miscellaneous expenses,		300 00	215 70
Discount on taxes,		200 00	245 69
Unusual expenses,	1,200 00		
Dog fund,	709 19	1,909 19	2,133 45
			\$7,887 06
Total appropriations,			7,633 70
Excess of payments over appropriations,			\$254 36

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

CHENEY NEWTON, *Collector.* Dr.

1877.

Mar. 16	To balance certificate of 1876, uncol- lected,	\$627 67	
	Amount interest collected,	25 33	
			\$653 00

CR.

1877.

April 2,	To paid Town Treasurer,	\$127 67
May 7,	Town Treasurer,	100 00
Aug. 9,	Town Treasurer,	200 00
Aug. 28,	Town Treasurer,	150 00

1878.

Mar. 16,	Town Treasurer,	75 33	
			\$653 00
	Town tax, 1877,		\$6,211 44

JAMES S. BLAIR, *Collector.*

Aug. 18,	Paid County tax,	\$613 23
Aug. 22,	Town Treasurer,	375 00
Aug. 30,	Town Treasurer,	400 00
Sept. 1,	Town Treasurer,	790 00

Discount allowed on above at
6 per cent., 139 03

Dec. 13,	Town Treasurer,	450 00
Dec. 23,	Town Treasurer,	450 00
Dec. 29,	Town Treasurer,	900 00

1878.

Jan. 1,	Town Treasurer,	760 00
	Discount allowed on above at 4 per cent.,	106 66

Mar. 8.	Town Treasurer,	150 00	
Mar. 16,	Town Treasurer,	300 00	
Mar. 16,	Town Treasurer's, certificate of abatement,	39 00	
	Balance, being amount of certifi- cate of 1877, uncollected,	738 52	
			\$6,211 44

Inventory of personal property at Almshouse, March 13, 1878.

1 horse,	\$100 00	
1 yoke oxen,	175 00	
7 cows,	250 00	
3 farrows,	60 00	
1 cow, injured,	10 00	
2 heifers,	40 00	
16 hens,	8 00	
4 shoats, 400 lbs.,	24 00	
12 tons English hay,	180 00	
3½ tons meadow,	17 50	
1½ tons rye straw,	15 00	
½ ton oat straw,	5 00	
9 bushels corn,	6 30	
28 bushels rye,	21 00	
32 bushels oats,	12 80	
5 bushels buckwheat,	3 25	
Meal and shorts,	1 50	
Farming tools and wood,	241 50	
Provisions,	184 59	
Household furniture,	232 86	
		\$1,588 30
Inventory, March 10, 1877,		1,710 16
Difference,		\$121 86

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

In account with the Town of Brimfield.

1877.

DR.

March 13, To Poor Farm as appraised March,		
10, 1877,	\$4,300	00
Live stock, as appraised March		
10, 1877,	792	00
Hay and grain, as appraised		
March 10, 1877,	244	30
Provisions, as appraised March		
10, 1877,	187	35
Farming tools and wood, as ap-		
praised March 10, 1877,	267	95
Household furniture, as appraised		
March 10, 1877,	232	86
1878.		
March 13, To one year's interest on above,	361	47
Cash advanced by town,	1,044	60
Balance due B. G. Webster on		
salary,	309	89
	—————	\$7,740 42

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

1878.

CR.

March 13, By Poor Farm as appraised this day,	\$4,300	00
Live stock,	667	00
Hay and grain,	262	35
Provisions,	184	59
Farming tools and wood,	241	50
Household furniture,	232	86
	—————	\$5,888 30

By paid bills for support of poor out of Almshouse as follows :

Worcester hospital, for A. J. Hooker,	\$138 35	
Northampton hospital, for Margaret Bradley,	110 92	
Paid Lydia Hubbard,	52 00	
City of Springfield, for Ellen Grace,	11 50	
City of Springfield, for Sarah Whiting,	20 97	
Town of Wilbraham, for Colgrove family,	8 75	
For Horace Nichols and wife,	20 00	
Institution for Blind, for George Needham,	32 00	
State Reform School, for Edward Clark,	42 00	
J. S. Loomis, coffin for Wm. G. Stone,	18 50	
Aid for Mrs. Wm G Stone and family,	16 41	
Aid for O. Henfield and family,	20 85	
Aid for M. Lashway and family,	11 74	
J. S. Loomis, coffin for Madison child,	5 00	
Dr. G. F. Chamberlain, medical services for		
Mrs. S. J. Tucker,	5 00	
		\$513 99

By paid for repairs as follows :

F. Brigham for $15\frac{1}{2}$ M shingles,	\$63 75	
E. & G. W. Dimick, drawing		
shingles,	5 25	
J. M. Lyon, for shingling house,	21 67	
		90 67

Balance, being the amount it has
cost to support the poor at
Almshouse,

\$1,247 46	1,247 46
	\$7,740 42

Average number at Almshouse, $14\frac{7}{8}$.

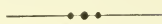
Number of weeks' board furnished, 735.

Cost of each week's board, \$1.697+.

Cost of each week's board after deducting interest on farm and stock, \$1.205+.

Cost for 231 tramps included in the above, \$55.99.

TREASURER'S REPORT.



A. L. Converse, in account with Town of Brimfield.

1877.

Dr.

March 16.	To balance settlement,	\$2,461 36
	Cash received of Cheney New-	
	ton on certificates of 1876.	627 67
	Interest collected on taxes,	25 33
June 11.	James S. Blair on note,	400 00
July 2.	James S. Blair balance note	
	and interest,	118 96
	Institution for Savings,	1,029 66
Dec. 3.	Corporation tax,	44 71
	National Bank tax,	660 21
	State aid reimbursement,	86 00

1878.

Jan. 25.	Proportion school fund,	224 51
Feb. 5.	Dog tax refunded,	85 92
March 4.	Town of Palmer on account bridges,	2 03
Feb. 10.	Balance Corporation tax,	3 12
Oct. 16.	Hampden Savings Bank,	300 00
	Error overpaid G. Bacon, and	
	Julia Blashfield,	6 25
March 15.	Town of Monson for schooling	
	in 1876,	18 88
	Hampden Savings Bank,	434 82
March 16.	Received of town of Stur-	
	bridge for support of Miss	
	Tourtellot,	41 00
	Received of James S. Blair on	
	certificate of 1877,	4,614 00

————— \$11,184 43

PAYMENTS.

1877.

Aug. 22.	By deposit in Hampden Savings Bank,	\$107 22
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Dec. 3.	Paid State tax,	495 00
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1878.

March 16.	Certificates of abatement, tax for 1876,	16 20
	Certificates of abatement, tax for 1877,	39 00
	S. S. Taft, administrator,	21 00
	Paid orders for repairs of highways,	1,266 82
	Paid orders for repairs of bridges,	137 93
	Paid orders for snow paths,	48 34
	Paid orders for support of schools,	1,869 48
	Paid orders for repairs of school-houses,	150 49
	Paid orders for support of paupers,	1,406 46
	Paid orders for officers' salaries,	412 70
	Paid orders for miscellaneous expenses,	215 70
	Paid orders for unusual expenses,	2,133 45
	Paid George Bacon,	5 25
	Paid Julia Blashfield,	1 00
	Balance, cash in the hands of Treasurer,	2,858 39
		—————\$11,184 43

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

1878.

March 16	Due May 1, for ringing bell,	\$35 00
	Northampton Hospital April 1,	45 00

Dog fund not appropriated,	85 92	
James S. Blair, Collector,	40 00	
B. G. Webster, balance of salary,	309 89	
Town of Wilbraham, for Col- grove family,	45 76	
Town of Monson, for S. J. Works,	3 00	
Town of Sturbridge, for O. Kenfield,	6 85	
State, for Edward Clark to April 1,	26 00	
For other bills not reported, estimated,	200 00	
Balance, being the amount of assets over all known liabilities,	3,149 88	
	————	\$3,947 30

ASSETS.

1878.

March 16. Cash in the hands of Treasurer,	\$2,858 39	
Due from State, for aid to families of soldiers,	96 00	
Due from O. A. Blashfield,	78 40	
Due from Monson for schooling,	11 92	
Due from Palmer for schooling, 1876 and '77,	24 35	
Due from Palmer for schooling, 1877 and '78,	18 80	
Due for taxes uncollected,	738 52	
Cash in Book Agency,	39 08	
Books on hand,	62 10	
Due from State on pauper account,	19 74	
	————	\$3,947 30

Submitted by

HENRY F. BROWN,	{	<i>Auditing Committee.</i>
ORUS E. PARKER,		
ARTHUR B. BROWN,		

SCHOOL REPORT

OF TOWN OF BRIMFIELD, FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1878.

*School Committee of the Town of Brimfield
in account with Town of Brimfield,*

	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
To amount appropriated by the town for wages of teachers, fuel and care of school buildings,	\$1,700 00	
To three-fourths income of school fund,	168 38	
By teachers' wages,		\$1,719 36
By fuel and care of school buildings,		146 03
By unexpended balance,		2 99
	<u>\$1,868 38</u>	<u>\$1,868 38</u>

To amount appropriated for conveying children to and from school, or for teachers' wages in addition to the above,	\$100 00	
To unexpended balance,		\$100 00
To one-fourth income of school fund,	56 13	
By crayons, ink, books of reference, etc.,		12 85
By unexpended balance,		43 28
	<u>\$56 13</u>	<u>\$56 13</u>

To amount appropriated for repairs,	\$200 00	
By amount paid for repairs,		\$151 94
By unexpended balance,		48 06
	<u>\$2,224 51</u>	<u>\$2,224 51</u>

Entire amount appropriated for school purposes,	\$2,000 00	
Income of school fund,	224 51	
Expense of schools,		\$2,030 18
Unexpended balance,		194 33
	<u>\$2,224 51</u>	<u>\$2,224 51</u>

In addition to the above, the Committee have contracted with Charles O. Brown to paint school-houses Nos. 6 and 10, the expense of same to be \$40.

School.		Teachers.	Wages per term.	Fuel and care of houses.	Total expense.	Average No. Scholars.	Cost per Scholar.
No. 1,	1 term,	Mary F. Woods,	\$69 75				
	2 "	Fannie P. Walker,	69 75	\$23 22	\$261 72	32	\$8 18
	3 "	"	99 00				
2,	1 "	Julia A. Blashfield,	69 75				
	2 "	"	68 20	27 75	264 70	37	7 15
	3 "	"	99 00				
3,	1 "	Rebecca M. Lincoln,	63 00	10 25	223 25	21	10 63
	2 "	"	63 00				
	3 "	Sena J. Webber,	87 00				
4,	1 "	H. N. Marsh,	56 00	18 31	234 31	18	13 02
	2 "	Minnie S. Burleigh,	70 00				
	3 "	"	90 00				
5,	1 "	Sarah Hubbard,	32 66	13 00	129 66	11	11 79
	3 "	"	84 00				
	3 "	"	96 00				
6,	1 "	Sarah E. Kenney,	63 00	10 50	232 50	18	12 92
	2 "	"	63 00				
	3 "	"	96 00				
7,	2 "	Ruth R. Cortis,	63 00		63 00	10	6 30
8,	1 "	Lizzie J. Traverse,	45 00	20 00	203 00	14	14 50
	2 "	"	54 00				
	3 "	"	84 00				
9,		Paid to Wales,	6 00		6 00	2	3 00
10,	1 "	Ruth R. Cortis,	69 75	23 00	247 25	23	10 75
	2 "	Sena J. Webber,	58 50				
	3 "	Ruth R. Cortis,	96 00				
			<u>\$1,719 36</u>	<u>\$146 03</u>	<u>\$1,865 39</u>		

There has been much good work done in the schools during the past year; the teachers have been generally interested and faithful; pupils have shown a good spirit and a disposition to make a good use of their school privileges; but we have a conviction that there is yet to be made a vast improvement in our school economy, resulting, we hope, in a corresponding increase of the mental and moral culture of our children.

An agent of the board of education who has opportunities for acquiring extended and accurate knowledge of the educational work done in this and several other States, in private conversation, said, recently, in substance: "The people are wonderfully patient in bearing the burdens which the education of their children imposes upon them; but if they knew what I know of the waste of time, money, and opportunity, of the unskillful work done by teachers and school officers, of the absence of any comprehensive plan, purpose or object to be attained except the formal ones of spending the appropriations, continuing the school so many weeks, and studying so many books, they would not as cheerfully vote away so much of their hard-earned substance without securing more substantial results." That there is more truth than imagination in the above many will attest, and we will not doubt. One of the principal causes for such a condition is the erroneous conception of the nature of a true education. A brief statement of the modern idea of it will best explain the motives and purposes which govern us in school work.

It has been the popular belief, and to a great extent is the present one, that a knowledge of the three R's constituted the substance of the education needed by children.

If one was able to read, write in a copy-book, and cipher, he was supposed to be able to "act well his part in life." With such a low aim it is no wonder that so many have left our schools with so little mental culture, and with less desire for more.

But such a theory ignores the godlike attributes of man, which raises him so far above the lower animals and makes him a "little lower than the angels."

The acquisition of useful knowledge is of great importance, but if the memory alone is to be relied on for its retention, it is held by a very uncertain tenure. Store the memory as you will, you can not make it a magazine for all that is desirable; hence something more is needed. To educate, accord-

ing to Webster, is to "lead out and train the mental powers, to inform and enlighten the understanding." In short, "education is mental growth and development." These definitions we accept, and for their practical application we labor.

Our duty then is to train and develop the minds of our pupils. To do this intelligently, we must first learn what we can of the nature, powers and order of their development. If we have ourselves learned to observe and to compare, we shall soon find that children get their first correct ideas of things through their senses. We might as well expect a blind man to understand colors or a deaf one to learn music, as to expect a child to have a correct idea of a flower or cube, or even of a word or letter, till he has first seen them. How unwise then for us, when he first comes to school to put a book into his hands with the expectation that by such means we are educating him. Rather let us rely on those powers of his own mind which nature gave him; let us place proper objects before him and lead him to examine, to compare and to think for himself, then lead him to give expression to his thoughts, at the same time teaching him proper expressions. Having expressed a thought based on observed facts, the sentence used by him is a real thing and he is then prepared to learn the written expression on the board or in a book, then the words composing the sentence, and subsequently the letters of the words. The methods here suggested are not visionary or ideal ones. Many teachers have used them and thousands of pupils have profited by them, and it is now too late to doubt their superior efficiency when employed by the skillful teacher.

But this is not all. We must inquire into the state or condition of the pupil's mind most favorable to secure mental development. If we should tell a class that a crayon was brittle, inflexible and friable, or that oxygen gas was inodorous, colorless, a supporter of combustion, etc., they would probably, were they accustomed to such teaching, accept the

facts without question ; but their minds being in a passive condition, no mental effort has been made, no power has been gained and no desire has been excited to obtain other facts, except in the same passive manner. Such pupils may become worthy men and women, but they will not be likely to have active, independent minds.

On the other hand, if the teacher had placed these objects before the class, and had led its members to investigate their properties and to discover the facts, their minds would have been excited to activity ; they would, in a measure, have acquired a power and a disposition to investigate and to discover other facts. The mind's activity is the food on which it grows, and thus it expands indefinitely. Pupils thus taught have commenced their education in the best manner now known to educators, and when thus taught may be expected to become the progressive men and women of the future. Such teaching and such study made a Galileo, a Columbus, a Franklin and an Agassiz, and is to-day exciting thousands of minds to seek for facts and truth outside of the dogmas of the past.

The poorest teaching now done in our schools is with the younger pupils. The perceptive powers of such are very keen, and if rightly called into activity, the result will prove, as a skillful teacher once remarked, that "every child, if correctly taught, is a wonder."

Before coming to school a child is in constant contact with things, and he learns of them by observation, and his ideas are correct. When he enters the school all is changed ; there is not an object on the teacher's desk for him to examine. During the first hour he is called out to read from a book, although many of the words he is taught to pronounce are unmeaning to him, and convey no ideas to his passive mind ; he then returns to his seat to spend most of the remaining hours of the school-day in listless idleness, because nothing is furnished him to do ; his activities are repressed

and he is placed in an abnormal condition. If he should prove to be a dunce after a course of such teaching, we are too much disposed to charge the fact to nature rather than to our own unskillful teaching.

That there has been some improvement on the picture here drawn we are happy to admit; that much of it is true now in some of our schools, we are sorry to affirm. Fully persuaded that the first year of a child's school-life is the most important epoch in his educational career, we shall continue our efforts to secure for him that course of teaching which his nature demands. To succeed, we must have proper objects for study on the teachers' desks, and our teachers must learn how to use them effectively.

We call attention to this fact, noticed in our schools, that the scholars are ambitious to advance, eager to press on; such progress is apt to be at the expense of thoroughness. Scholars are unwilling to be held back; they have pride about keeping up with the class; they want to make that kind of progress that is marked by the turning over of leaves, and they are displeased and unwilling when required to go back or remain where they are until they have mastered the situation. And they too often get sympathy at home in this feeling. Their parents are ambitious for them, and have pride for them, and overlook the necessity of thoroughness.

The truth is, and it can scarcely be emphasized too much, that thoroughness and complete mastery of one principle, are better than the hasty passage over a dozen. Education is not merely the storing of the mind with knowledge, it is mainly the development of mental power. Not the accumulation of facts, not passing over a certain number of pages, not the amount of ground gone over, but discipline and culture, the mental facility in the acquisition and use of knowledge; this is the chief end of all study in the schools. To accomplish this, the scholar must not be hurried or allowed to rush along; he must be held to one thing, kept upon one plane

until thorough work is made there. And parents should sympathize with all efforts of the teacher directed to this end. They should learn that the true line of ambition and the true test of progress are not the number of pages turned, not the amount of space gone over, but the habits of study acquired, the mental discipline and culture attained. The scholar will, as a matter of course, get tired of one page, one section, one principle, and be restlessly eager after novelties and fresh fields.

The remedy for this, and indeed the grand key to all true, effective teaching, is the vitalization of the subject before the class by the teacher's mind, the bringing of light and interest, and throwing it upon the page by the vivacity, intelligence, and ingenuity of the teacher.

We are well aware that this implies a teaching genius far above the average teacher's ability, and it is indeed toward the ideal teacher that all should aim.

Attention has been called, in previous reports of your Committee, to the importance of a manifestation of interest in the schools on the part of neighbors, friends and parents, by frequent visits to the school-room and notice of the work there done. On this point we will state that the visits of parents and friends to the schools during the school year just closed number two hundred and one. This does not include the calls of the Committee, nor the attendance of visitors on examination days. Had the latter been included in the enumeration, the number would probably have been double that just given.

The visits of the Committee to the schools exceed one hundred.

REPAIRS.

The school-house in No. 2 has been made much more comfortable and convenient by putting in new seats and desks. The houses in Nos. 1 and 8 have been repainted, and the houses in 6 and 10 are now under contract. New pumps

have been furnished in 1 and 4. In addition to the above, minor repairs have been made on all the school-houses in use, and they are now in a fair condition. Nos. 5 and 7 need repainting, and No. 2 will soon need reshingling, if it continues to be used for a school-house.

The Truant Laws enacted last year were not submitted to the court for approval for some months, and they came to us too late to be very serviceable for the year. We at once proceeded to avail ourselves of them, electing two truant officers whose report is herewith submitted, as are also the Truant Laws. It is hoped that parents will see that there shall be but little necessity to employ a truant officer for the year to come.

The laws enforcing attendance of children in the schools (Chap. 41, Sec. 1 of the R. S.) which the truant officers are required to enforce, are as follows :

“Every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall annually cause such child to attend some public day school in the city or town in which he resides, at least twenty weeks ; which time shall be divided into two terms each of ten consecutive weeks, so far as the arrangement of school terms will allow ; and for every neglect of such duty the party offending shall forfeit to the use of the public schools of such city or town a sum not exceeding twenty dollars.”

The law above referred to provides for reasonable excuses, which will exempt from the above penalty.

TRUANT LAWS ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF BRIMFIELD APRIL 9, 1877.

ARTICLE I. Any minor child residing in the town of Brimfield, between the ages of seven and fifteen years of age, who shall be guilty of being an habitual truant, or of wandering about in the streets, or public places of the town, having no lawful occupation or business, not attending school, and growing up in ignorance, shall upon conviction

thereof, be punished by fine not exceeding twenty dollars, or instead thereof may be committed, with the assent of the Board of State Charities, to the State Primary School at Monson, for such time, not exceeding two years, as the Justice or Court having jurisdiction thereof may determine.

ART. II. The State Primary School at Monson, with the assent of the Board of State Charities, is hereby assigned and provided as an institution for instruction, house of reformation and suitable place for the confinement, discipline and instruction of such children.

ART. III. It shall be the duty of every Truant Officer, before making any complaint for offenses under these By-laws, to notify the offending child and his parent, or guardian, of the offence committed, and of the penalty therefor; and if the truant officer can obtain satisfactory pledges for the restraint and reformation of the child, he may, in his discretion, forbear to prosecute so long as such pledges are faithfully observed and kept.

ART. IV. These By-laws shall take effect on their approval as required by law.

I have approved the foregoing provisions and By-laws. Witness my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy-seven.

WILLIAM S. SHURTLEFF,
Judge of Probate for Hampden County.

To the School Committee of the Town of Brimfield.

Gentlemen: In compliance with your request, I visited School District No. 2, and respectfully submit the following report: Owing to the lateness of the season when appointed Truant Officer, I knew nothing in regard to the children of this district previous to the Winter term. On December 27, I visited District No. 2, and found nine children between the age of eight and fourteen who were not attending school. I consulted the parents or guardians of the children, who gave me their reasons why the children under their charge did not attend school. Some gave as a reason inability by reason of poverty, others the long distance from the school-house, others said they would comply with the law immediately. Only one man refused to send his child, and defied the Committee to make him. I made an oral report to you immediately.

As there has been no complaint to me by you or the teacher, I presume all that the law requires to attend school did so.

F. E. COOK, *Truant Officer.*

Brimfield, March 11, 1878.

George M. Hitchcock, the town's agent, will continue to supply school-books at a small advance on the wholesale prices.

The schools for the school year will commence as follows: Spring term, April 22; Fall term, August 27; Winter term, December 2.

Respectfully submitted,

W. K. PIERCE,	}	<i>School Committee of Brimfield.</i>
J. L. WOODS,		
E. W. NORWOOD,		

Brimfield, March 22, 1878.

